

Tennessee Ethics Commission
April 2, 2015
Minutes

The Tennessee Ethics Commission met on Thursday, April 2, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance office. Members present were: Greg Hardeman, Jim Stranch, Charles Traugher, and Tammy White. Mr. Stranch called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was to elect a chairperson. Mr. Traugher nominated Ms. White and Mr. Stranch seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

December 16, 2014 Minutes

Mr. Hardeman made the motion to approve the December 16, 2014 minutes. Mr. Traugher seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Requests for Reconsideration

Robert F. Dunham – 2014-252

Dennis Hinch – 2014-227

Campbell Transportation – 2014-236

TN Men's Health Network – 2014-241

Mr. Dunham was assessed \$1000 at the December 16, 2014 meeting for failure to timely file the Statement of Interests (103 penalty days late). He submitted a request for reconsideration on January 22, 2015. Mr. Stranch made the motion to reconsider and to reduce the assessment to \$100. Mr. Hardeman seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Hinch was assessed \$1,000 at the December 16, 2014 meeting for failure to timely file the Statement of Interests (158 penalty days late). He filed a request for reconsideration on January 6, 2015. Mr. Hardeman made the motion to reconsider and reduce the assessment to \$100. Mr. Stranch seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Campbell Transportation Co. was assessed \$750 at the December 16, 2014 meeting for failure to timely file a lobbying expenditure report. A request for reconsideration was received on January 8, 2015. Mr. Stranch made the motion to reconsider and reduce the assessment to \$100. Mr. Hardeman seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

TN Men's Health Network was assessed \$750 at the December 16, 2014 meeting for failure to timely file a lobbying expenditure report. A request for reconsideration was received on January 21, 2015. Mr. Hardeman made the motion to deny reconsideration as this was not the first assessment against TN Men's Health Network and Mr. Traugher seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Informal Civil Penalty Assessments – Local Candidates

Joseph Aldridge – 2015-00

Mr. Aldridge was 10 penalty days late filing the Statement of Interests. Mr. Hardeman made the motion to take no action and Mr. Stranch seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Stephanie Huffman – 2015-002

Ms. Huffman was 29 penalty days late filing the Statement of Interests. Mr. Hardeman made the motion to assess a \$25 penalty and Mr. Stranch seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Deborah Smith – 2015-004

Ms. Smith was 82 penalty days late filing the Statement of Interests. Mr. Hardeman made the motion to assess a \$100 penalty and Mr. Stranch seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Jerome Dillard – 2015-009

Mr. Dillard was 130 penalty days late filing the Statement of Interests. Mr. Stranch made the motion to assess a \$100 penalty and Mr. Traugher seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Lisa Skinner – 2015-006

Connie Fain Woodcock – 2015-005

Lequita Chapman – 2015-014

Stacey Plunk – 2015-007

Mr. Hardeman made the motion to assess a \$100 penalty against the above filers failure to timely file the Statement of Interests (149 penalty days, 151 penalty days, 152 penalty days, and 162 penalty days). Mr. Stranch seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Olliva Savage – 2015-011

Mr. Stranch made the motion to assess a \$1000 penalty for failure to file the Statement of Interests. Mr. Hardeman seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Jim Hill – 2015-015

Mr. Hill was 168 penalty days late filing the Statement. Mr. Hardeman made the motion to assess a \$100 penalty and Mr. Traugher seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Andrew Hall – 2015-013

Margaret Muenstermann – 2015-003

Mr. Hardeman made the motion to assess a \$1000 penalty for failure to file and Mr. Traugher seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Informal Civil Penalty Assessment – State Candidate

Keith Williams – 2015-012

Mr. Hardeman made the motion to assess a \$1000 penalty for failure to file and Mr. Stranch seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Informal Civil Penalty Assessment – Employer of Lobbyist

Charter Communications – 2015-016

Charter Communications was one penalty day late paying the registration fee. Mr. Stranch made the motion to take no action and Mr. Hardeman seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Advisory Opinion – 15-01 (National Rifle Association)

The National Rifle Association submitted a request for a formal Advisory Opinion. The association wanted clarification on whether the NRA could invite some members of the General Assembly to an upcoming event based on the exception of a charitable organization. (T.C.A. § 3-6-305(b)(6)(C))

Matt Bower, Assistant General Counsel for the NRA, attended the meeting and answered questions. After discussion, the Commission reached a consensus that a 4-0 vote could not be reached to either pass or fail the staff draft of the advisory opinion.

Mr. Hardeman made the motion to defer this matter and study a previous advisory opinion (07-02). Mr. Traughber seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Other Business

Drew Rawlins, Executive Director of the Bureau, presented the 2014 Annual Report. Mr. Stranch made the motion to approve the annual report and Mr. Hardeman seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Rawlins also presented the Commission with the *Code of Conduct*, which they individually signed.

Mr. Traughber requested that a commendation of staff be placed on the agenda of a future meeting. He expressed his appreciation for the hard work and helpfulness of the Bureau staff.

There being no other business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned.